- To coordinate and monitor research networks relating to problems of national and regional priority like hybrid rice, biotechnology, quality rice, germplasm evaluation for biotic stresses.
- To accelerate the pace of technology transfer and develop innovative extension models.

CRRI

- Increase in production and productivity of rice in India in all agro-ecosystems:
- Irrigated, upland, rainfed low-land and deep water research through multi-disciplinary approach are the major activities of the Central Rice Research Institute.

Minimum Support Price for Copra

3535. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fall in prices of coconut in Kerala and other parts of the country where it is being produced, due to the inordinate delay in declaring the Minimum Support Price for Copra though season has already started in December, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in declaring the MSP on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (c) There has been some decline in the prices of copra in recent months. However the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of copra has since been announced for 2000 season. The MSP for milling copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) has been fixed at Rs. 3250 per quintal and that of Ball copra of FAQ at Rs. 3500 per qtl. Meanwhile, National Agricultural Coopeative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), had been instructed to purchase copra at the MSP rate of 1999 and refund the different between the old and revised MSP to the growers. NAFED has already procured over 9160 tonnes of milling copra and the procurement is continuing.